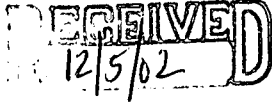


Seth A.
82626

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December 4, 2001

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Janet Conetta
Strategic Integration Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

Re: Request for Information Relating to the
Berry's Creek Study Area, Bergen County, New Jersey
Addressed to Houghton Chemical Corporation

Dear Ms. Conetta:

I am writing to you as legal counsel for Houghton Chemical Corporation in connection with Request for Information dated November 5, 2002 which was addressed to Houghton Chemical Corporation, 30 Amor Avenue, Carlstadt, New Jersey. This Request for Information relates to the Berry's Creek Study Area, Bergen County, New Jersey.

Houghton Chemical Corporation is in the process of assembling the information and documents which are necessary to respond to the Request for Information and intends to forward to EPA its response as soon as possible. Given the fact, however, that some of the relevant information is archived, while other information will require checking various computer records dating back in time, it will not be possible to provide a response to the Request for Information within thirty calendar days of Houghton Chemical's receipt of it. Therefore, Houghton Chemical Corporation hereby requests that it be accorded up to and including December 23, 2002 in order to provide you with its response. This constitutes approximately a two week extension.

82626



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December 4, 2002

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Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Last", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael P. Last

cc: Houghton Chemical Corporation